

PREFACE

During the holiday season of 1901 at the home of her father, Nell Gardner, the author was requested by her grandfather to write his biography. This promise she gladly gave, little realizing at the time what that promise involved.

The two-weeks' holiday was devoted to taking down incidents of his early life. He died the following February. Then the magnitude of her promise began to unfold.

Some time later Aunt Della, from data she had access to, compiled a year-by-year journal of his life and that of the family. He had written a diary up to 1851 and short sketches at various times thereafter. The Church Historian's office yielded valuable information. Relatives from Star Valley contributed the colorful account of his life there.

His diary included short sketches of his father, mother, brothers, and sisters. A strong band of kinship knit the Gardner family, and so this volume makes numerous mention of those near and dear to him.

Much of the success of his stupendous life-achievements in this desert wild was due to the willing cooperation of the splendid women who were his wives, and his upright, industrious children. Their doings were so closely interwoven that the author has not tried to untangle them. Short sketches of his splendid wives are also included.

The great motivating force in his life was his vibrant and sustaining faith in the Church of Jesus Christ and his unflinching desire to help his fellowman.

May his descendants carry on!

Grateful acknowledgment is made to all who have contributed to what we believe is an authentic biography of this great Utah Pioneer of 1847, and his wives.



ARCHIBALD GARDNER